

*A G E N D A*  
*OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING*  
*TUESDAY, March 16, 1999*  
*3:00 PM*  
*OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES*  
*415 S. PINE STREET*  
*WALHALLA, SC 29691*

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Discussion Regarding Annexation of County Property into City Limits of Seneca – Mr. Gregg Dietterick, City of Seneca
5. Consideration of Request to Apply for Grant for Miller Branch Flow Monitor Station – Mr. Robert Gaillard, Economic Development Director
6. Discussion Regarding Budget Debates Between Oconee County Council & Oconee School Board – Mr. Bud Lorsch
7. Discussion Regarding County Wide Museum – Mrs. Louise Bell, Arts & Historical Commission
8. Discussion Regarding Structure of Fire Department – Mr. Dewitt Mize, Rural Fire Marshal
9. Consideration of Request for Contingency Funds in the Amount of \$50,000 to Repair MITSUBISHI Shovel – Mr. Tommy Crumpton, Rock Crusher Director
10. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding Tourism Committee for the County – Mr. Tim Hall, Council Member, District I
11. Discussion Regarding Animal Shelter – Mr. J. Harold Thomas, Council Member, District II
12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Adjourn

**AGENDA**

Oconee County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 1999 – 3:00 PM

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There will be a meeting of the Oconee County Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee Tuesday, March 16, 1999 at 1:30 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Prior to the regular Council Meeting at 3:00 PM there will be an open session at 2:30 PM for the public to express their concerns to Council. Anyone wishing to speak will need to sign in and give the subject on which they wish to speak.

**MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Tim O. Hall, District I Mr. J. Harold Thomas, District II  
Mr. Harry R. Hamilton, District III Mrs. Ann H. Hughes, District IV  
Mr. Charles R. "Chuck" Timms, District V

**MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Oconee County Council was held Tuesday, March 16, 1999 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers with all Council Members except Mrs. Hughes present. Mr. Cain, County Attorney, was also present for the meeting.

**Press:**

Members of the press notified (by mail): Journal/Tribune, Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Anderson Independent, Greenville News, WGOG Radio, WSNW Radio, WCCP Radio, WPEK Radio, The Times Upstate, Northland Cablevision, WYFF TV, WSPA TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Laura Gabrels – Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier, Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio & Brian Fulkerson – Journal/Tribune.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Hamilton who conducted the meeting. Mr. Hamilton welcomed the guests and media.

**Invocation:**

Mr. Hall gave the invocation.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timms, approved 3 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held March 2, 1999 and the minutes of the special meeting held March 8, 1999 be adopted as printed.

**Annexation of County Property Into City Limits of Seneca:**

Mr. Gregg Dietterick of the City of Seneca addressed Council regarding the hospital site, which is owned by the county, being annexed in the city limits. Mr. Dietterick informed Council he had given Mr. W. H. Hudson, President, Oconee Memorial Hospital, an estimation of \$21,000 savings if the hospital were charged inside rated versus the outside rates they are currently being charged.

**Annexation Discussion Continued:**

Mr. Dieterick further stated solid waste would be removed on a daily basis versus the current weekly basis at a savings of \$20,000 and there would be an approximate savings of \$7,800 for water costs.

Further, the hospital is presently leasing some lighting from the City of Seneca, new streetlights could be installed and the rental structure could be changed saving the hospital some \$10,000.

After further discussion, Mr. Dieterick assured Council that if the City of Seneca takes over the operation of the Newry facility it will be treated as any other part of the Seneca sewer system. Mr. Dieterick informed Council that the operational and maintenance costs of the hospital would be lowered if the hospital were annexed into the city limits.

Mr. Dieterick further stated that the key was for the hospital to come into the Seneca City limits, they would be charged a lessor rate, which would cut down on their costs.

The annexation of this property into the Seneca City limits would allow Seneca to grow from two to ten years down the road, and they have no room to grow at this time as they are blocked by the hospital property.

Mr. Dieterick proposed to Council that both properties of the hospital and the wastewater facility be annexed into the city limits, let the City of Seneca reduce the operational costs for the hospital and the wastewater facility and in return, when the Newry project is completed let the City of Seneca take over the operation and maintenance of the project.

After further discussion, Mr. Dieterick assured Council that if the City of Seneca takes over the operation of the Newry facility it will be treated as any other part of the Seneca sewer system. Mr. Dieterick further assured Council it would be taken over with no strings attached.

If the county and hospital were to petition the City of Seneca to be accepted into the city limits, there would have to be two readings of an ordinance by Seneca City Council to accept the properties into the city limits.

At this time, the City of Seneca does provide Newry with fire protection, if the hospital were annexed into the city limits the city would also provide police protection to the hospital.

**Annexation Discussion Continued:**

Mr. Dieterick gave an estimated amount of approximately \$60,000 that the hospital could save on operational and maintenance costs if it was annexed into the city limits. These savings would be in solid waste, sewer and water as Seneca is already furnishing electricity to the hospital.

If the City of Seneca took over the sewer and water systems in the Newry area, there would be a total of one hundred, twelve water meters to be read each month rather than the one meter presently read for all the citizens, however, the City of Seneca is ready to make that commitment per Mr. Dieterick. Further, if Newry ever wanted to be annexed into the city limits, they would have to petition the city.

Mr. Dieterick further reiterated that if the City of Seneca was to take over the sewer and water systems for the Newry area, it would have to be a turnkey project including the meters and the county addressing any cost overruns. The city would then take over the maintenance and reading of the meters.

**Grant for Sewer Line:**

Upon request of Mr. Robert Gaillard, Economic Development Director, Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, approved 3 – 0 that Mr. Gaillard seek grant funds (non matching) for a sewer line to serve Lift Technologies. This company is expecting to increase the number of employees.

**Budget Discussions:**

Mr. Bud Lorsch addressed Council regarding budget deliberations between the School Board & County Council. Mr. Lorsch informed Council the lack of trust between the two entities was not in the best interest of the citizens and suggested that a committee comprised of two School Board Members, two County Council Members and one Delegation Member be appointed to share information and keep each other informed regarding the educational system.

This matter was referred to the Budget & Finance Committee.

**County Wide Museum:**

Mrs. Louise Bell addressed Council regarding a museum in the Walhalla area, but withdrew the request, at this time, of the Arts & Historical Society for a grant of up to \$15,000 for an architectural firm to determine the structural stability of the old Motor Pool building to be used as a museum.

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**Rural Fire Department:**

The next item on the agenda was discussion regarding the structure of the Rural Fire Department, Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, approved 3 – 0 that Council go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss contractual matters.

**Rock Crusher (Contingency Funds):**

Upon request of Mr. Tommy Crumpton, Rock Crusher Director, Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timms, approved 3 – 0 that \$65,000 be taken from contingency to replace two pumps on the 1987 Mitsubishi shovel.

**Tourism Committee:**

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timms, approved 3 – 0 that an Oconee County Tourism Committee be formed consisting of five members, one from each Council District and the County Attorney be asked to author the ordinance forming such a committee.

**Animal Control:**

Mr. Thomas proposed that the county study the possibility of taking animal control back from the Humane Society including the incorporated and unincorporated areas. (See attached statement)

This matter was referred to the Law Enforcement, Safety, Health, Welfare & Services Committee. Mr. Thomas requested that they meet as soon as possible and that the Sheriff, City Officials and the Humane Society be invited to attend the meeting.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that Council go into executive session as requested earlier in the meeting.

**Open Session:**

When open session resumed, Mr. Hamilton informed those present that there was nothing to report from the executive session.

**(Library):**

Upon request of Mrs. Martha Baily, Library Director, Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, approved 3 – 0 that the Library apply for a Gates Library Institution Grant for approximately fifteen computers, four printers, software and training. This grant requires no match.

**(Parks):**

Mr. Hall requested that the Purchasing, Contracting, Real Estate, Building & Grounds Committee research the need for the two parks being offered to the county by Duke Power Company.

**(Mr. Timms Report):**

Mr. Timms reported that Winkler Road would be coming up soon in the court system, also Council still needs to take action on the Council on Aging Building and the request for a building from Golden Corner Ministries.

**(Resolution for Seneca High Girls):**

Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that a Resolution of Congratulations to the Seneca High School Girls Basketball Team be adopted.

**(Rock Crusher Road):**

Mr. Thomas informed those present that in light of the recent rumors that Rock Crusher Road is going to be closed, that neither the County Supervisor nor the Department Head had the authority close any roadway.

**(Council Office):**

Mr. Thomas informed those present that he would like to have an office in phase III of the Pine Street complex for County Council which would include the Council Clerk, a desk and phone for Council Members to use, a file cabinet for Council to use and all necessary items to carry out the business of County Council. The first priority of the Clerk should be to take care of Council business.

**(Council Meetings):**

Mr. Thomas further informed Council that he felt with all the new ordinances Council was considering and all the business being brought before Council, he would advocate having a third meeting per month, maybe at 10:00 AM on a Tuesday.

**(Resolution in Favor of Supporting Rep. Barrett's Bill Regarding Litter):**

Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Timms, approved 3 – 0 that Council adopt a resolution in support of Representative Gresham Barrett's bill regarding making littering a punishable offense and a copy of the resolution be sent to the Speaker of the House.

**(Discussion Regarding Litter):**

Mr. Timms requested that a discussion regarding litter control be placed on the next Council agenda and the Sheriff, the Litter Control Officer, Adopt-a-Highway and KOBA be invited to attend.

**(Meeting with Delegation):**

Mr. Thomas requested that Council meet with the Oconee County Legislative Delegation April 5, 1999 at 8:30 AM for the purpose of discussing pending legislation affecting counties and county government.

**(Committee Resignation & Appointment):**

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that Mr. Frankie Galloway's resignation as a member of the Oconee County Adult Club Ordinance Appeal Board be accepted with regret.

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that Mr. Roger Mize be appointed to represent District I on the Oconee County Adult Club Ordinance Appeal Board.

**(Health Department Building):**

To Mr. Hall's inquiry, Mr. Caime, County Engineer, informed Council he would be overseeing the construction of the new Seneca Health Clinic.



**(Budget & Finance Committee Meeting):**

Mr. Hall announced there would be a meeting of the Oconee County Budget & Finance Committee Tuesday, April 6, 1999 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of discussing inmate medical expenses and the need for hangars at the airport.

**(Resolution 99-4):**

Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that Resolution 99-4, "A RESOLUTION HONORING MS. BONNIE MOSES" be adopted on first and final reading.

**(Resolution 99-5):**

Mr. Timms made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, approved 3 – 0 that Resolution 99-5, "A RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING THE COST OF MULCH AT THE LANDFILL AT \$2.67 PER CUBIC YARD WITH APPLICABLE SALES TAX" be adopted on first and final reading.

**(DAVCO Building):**

Mr. Cain, County Attorney, informed Council closure on the Davenport Property was planned for Friday, March 16, 1999.

**(Grant Application):**

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved 3 – 0 that the county apply for a CDBG Grant for exterior painting of the houses in the Newry Housing Rehabilitation project. (See attachment)

**(Solid Waste):**


Mr. Thomas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, approved 3 – 0 that in an effort to reduce the amount of waste going into the C&D Landfill, the hours of the scalehouse operator be changed to four and one half hours per day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, eight and one half hours on Saturday and closed all day on Wednesday making the total hours of that position twenty seven hours per week. Further the position of the position of the landfill equipment operator be changed to four hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, eight hours on Saturday and closed all day on Wednesday making the total hours of that position twenty four hours per week.

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**Adjourn:**

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

  
Opal O. Green  
Council Clerk

# Oconee County Rock Quarry

686 Rock Crusher Road  
Walhalla, SC 29691

Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr.  
Director

(864) 638-4214  
fax (864) 638-4215

Karen D. Kelley  
Administrative Asst.

March 16, 1999

Mr. Harrison Orr, Supervisor - Chairman  
Oconee County Council  
415 South Pine Street  
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Re: Oconee County Rock Quarry Equipment

Dear Mr. Orr and County Council:

I respectfully request \$65,000.00 from the contingency fund to replace the failed pumps on the 1987 Mitsubishi shovel. The total repair cost is \$74,300.00. There is \$9,300.00 available in the maintenance on vehicle budget line item that can be used for this purpose.

In order to keep you updated, please find attached a list of most of the equipment presently used at the Rock Quarry. Due to age, the harsh nature of the environment at the Quarry and the many hours of use, this equipment is wearing down and will need to be replaced, as it becomes inoperable.

Your kind consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., Director  
Oconee County Rock Quarry

TCS/pm

Attachment

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March 16, 1999  
Oconee County Rock Quarry Equipment

<u>Year</u>	<u>Type of Equipment</u>	<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Replacement Cost</u>
1981	Loader FA 945-B	\$175,000.00	\$480,000.00
1986	Loader Cat 980-C	\$155,140.00	\$300,000.00
1987	Shovel Mitsubishi (used)	\$276,500.00	\$700,000.00
1992	Loader Cat 980-F	\$224,215.00	\$300,000.00
1995	Loader Kawasaki 90Z	\$183,397.00	\$225,000.00
1975	Backdump Cline 25 ton (used)	\$ 5,000.00	\$275,000.00
1979	Backdump Cline 25 ton	\$ 75,000.00	\$275,000.00
1979	Backdump Cline 25 ton	\$ 75,000.00	\$275,000.00
1989	Backdump Euclid 25 ton	\$186,545.00	\$186,545.00
1994	Backdump Terex 30 ton	\$253,150.00	\$300,000.00
1977	Truck Scales	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
1978	Complete Crushing Plant	\$595,828.00	
	--Replaced 1 cone crusher		
	--Replaced 1 jaw 1999	\$181,945.00	

OCONEE COUNTY VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY  
15026 WELLS HIGHWAY  
SENECA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29678  
TELEPHONE: 864-888-1446  
FAX: 864-888-1450

MARCH 16, 1999

To: Harrison Orr, County Supervisor  
County Council Members

County Rock Quarry	
Current Balance Vehicle Maintenance:	\$92,723.79
Requisitions and Work Orders so far this Month:	30,562.10
Left for the remainder of 1998-1999, a Balance of	62,161.69
Average Monthly Vehicle Maintenance This Year:	
\$12,159.52 with 4(four) months left to go	- 48,638.08

BALANCE: 13,523.61

We are requesting \$65,000.00 from County Council	65,000.00
which will be a total of	78,523.61
Estimated cost to repair Shovel:	74,300.00
Balance after Repairs:	4,223.61

# Osceola County Rock Quarry

*Actual*  
July '98 - February '99

*Projected*  
March '99 - June '99

	Actual	Projected	
	0.00		
	50,426.87-		
	49,342.86+		
	44,498.85-		
	44,524.84+		
	29,536.70-		
	27,748.61+		0.00
	32,648.02+		
<i>County</i> →	26,089.17+	304,865.92+	
<i>Use</i> →	304,865.92-	8.00	
		38,108.24*	
	157,478.15+		
	180,831.60+	1,243,192.08+	
	150,359.65+	8.00	
	154,110.78-	153,394.01*	
	158,375.52+		
	140,474.69+	135,394.01+	
	148,038.70+	38,108.24+	<i>Average</i>
	153,482.91+	193,502.25*	<i>Revenue</i>
<i>Outside</i> →	1,243,152.08*	193,502.25*	<i>Projected</i>
<i>Sales</i> →		4.00	<i>Revenue</i>
	1,243,152.08-	774,009.00*	<i>Projected</i>
	304,865.92-		<i>Revenue</i>
	1,548,018.00*	774,009.00+	<i>Projected</i>
		515,931.00+	<i>Profit</i>
	207,909.02+	1,082,940.00*	<i>for year</i>
	230,174.54+		
	194,858.50+		
	198,635.62+		
	187,962.22+		
	168,223.30+		
	180,686.72+		
	179,572.08+		
<i>Total Rock</i> →	1,548,018.00*		
<i>Sales</i> →			
	1,580,239.00+		
	249,928.00-		
	98,206.00-		
<i>1999</i> →	1,232,087.00*		
<i>Budget</i> →			
<i>Over Budget</i> →			

## **Proposed Oconee County Tourism Commission**

### *Why have an Oconee County Tourism Commission?*

Tourism is a tremendous business in South Carolina with the State Department of Tourism doing an excellent job of attracting tourists to South Carolina and the regional tourist boards, such as the Pendleton Historic District, Discover Upcountry and soon the Heritage Corridor Committee drawing tourists to our district. We must have a vehicle for drawing tourists directly to Oconee County. Oconee County, with its lakes, rivers and mountains has as much to offer, if not more, than any county in our state and should make efforts to increase its tourist based revenues.

Oconee County currently has over \$31,000,000 in annual visitor spending with over \$5.5 million in wages provided by the tourism industry. This in turn provides \$82,000 to the local ATAX commission. With an active Tourism Committee in our county, we can easily increase these numbers to the benefit of all Oconee citizens.

### *What would it do?*

- An Oconee County Tourism Commission would:
- Coordinate its efforts with the Pendleton Historic District, Discover Upcountry and the Heritage Corridor Committee in an effort to draw tourists into Oconee County.
- Work with local organizations to coordinate and enhance their events
- Examine ways to attract additional tourist revenue to Oconee County
- Attract tourist related events to the county, such as fairs and exhibitions
- Publicize the tourist related aspects of Oconee County through a variety of venues
- Advise County Council on Tourism related issues
- Work closely with the county PRT Commission on issues related to tourist attraction to county parks

### *How would it work?*

- The commission should consist of five members, one from each council district with terms and other details of service to be outlined in the ordinance
- The commission would be able to derive some needed funding from the ATAX Commission
- The commission would maintain contact with regional commissions, the county PRT and County Council to coordinate and enhance its effectiveness

**CITY OF SENECA**

P.O. Box 4773  
 221 East North First Street  
 Seneca, South Carolina 29679  
 (864)885-2700

Council Members:

Vikki Allen  
 Warren Bright  
 Andy Inabinet  
 Carlton King  
 Bobby Laye  
 Charles Reid  
 Ernest Riley

Mayor Daniel W. Alexander  
 Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie O'Kelley

March 10, 1999

Ms. Lindsey J. Fields  
 Oconee County Humane Society  
 321 Camp Road  
 Walhalla, SC 29691

Dear Ms. Fields:

Due to the number of calls received by the citizens of Seneca, the City Council has voted to resume the services of animal control. Please allow this letter to serve as notice of thirty day cancellation.

Please return the following:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. 5 cat traps      | 8. 2 bungee cords  |
| 2. 2 dog traps      | 9. 1 large choke chain   |
| 3. 1 puppy trap     | 10. 1 small choke chain  |
| 4. 2 large carriers | 11. 1 pair tin snips   |
| 5. 1 medium carrier | 12. 1 metal leash  |
| 6. 1 small carrier  | 13. 1 Rubbermaid storage container   |
| 7. 3 catch poles    | 14. 1 1991 Ford pickup truck, vin number 1 FTDF15y9mnb10185,<br>tag number MG26637 |

I would like to thank you for all the work you have done for the City of Seneca and I wish your organization continued success.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Alexander  
 Mayor



Dear Harry:

Greg and I met with Mr. Orr last Friday and discussed many things. I informed him that the City Council voted to terminate the contract with the Humane Society. He asked me to make sure that you received a copy of the termination letter.

Please understand that the City has received many complaints about stray animals. The Council felt that at this time it would be best to handle this service in-house.

Thank very much for all the support you give the City of Seneca. I appreciate all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "Dan".

Dan

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF OCONEE  
RESOLUTION 99-4

WHEREAS, MS. BONNIE MOSES has served as a member of the Oconee County Voter Registration Board for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, MS. MOSES has served as Chairman and Co-Chairman of Voter Registration since 1982; and

WHEREAS, MS. MOSES is retiring, effective March 15, 1999 after years of service to the citizens of Oconee County; and

WHEREAS, MS. MOSES has performed the duties of her office in a most professional manner; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Oconee County Council, for themselves individually, and as a body, and on behalf of the citizens of Oconee County, desire to express to MS. MOSES their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the many hours of service which she has given the County and the citizens thereof;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in Council duly assembled, that the official records and minutes of the Oconee County Council contain the following:

***"OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES THE MANY HOURS AND SACRIFICE MADE BY MS. BONNIE MOSES AS A MEMBER OF THE OCONEE COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION BOARD AND THAT OCONEE COUNTY WILL FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, BE A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO WORK AND LIVE AS A RESULT OF HER ALTRUISTIC SERVICE"***

APPROVED & ADOPTED, on first and final reading this sixteenth day of March 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry R. Hamilton  
Vice Chairman  
Oconee County Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Opal O. Green  
Council Clerk

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF OCONEE  
RESOLUTION 99-5

**WHEREAS, ORDINANCE 93-5, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF SURPLUS YARD WASTE, MULCH AND LIKE PRODUCTS BY OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PRESCRIBE THE MANNER OF SUCH SALES AND THE PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTING THEREFORE WAS ADOPTED BY THE OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THIRD AND FINAL READING IN SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED ON JULY 8, 1998; AND**

**WHEREAS,** said Ordinance provides for the sale of surplus yard waste and other related products by Oconee County at a price to be determined and set by Resolution of the Oconee County Council; and

**WHEREAS,** Resolution 93-16 fixed that cost at \$2.50 per cubic yard; **PROVIDED HOWEVER,** that when and if county equipment becomes available, said products may be loaded by county equipment at an additional charge of \$2.00 per cubic yard; and

**WHEREAS,** the County is now required to charge state sales tax on said products;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Oconee County Council, in session, duly assembled, with a quorum present and voting, that the cost of such products shall be \$2.67 per cubic yard with applicable State of SC sales taxes being applied to the cost of such products as described herein, and that all other provisions of Resolution 93-16 not affected hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**RATIFIED & ADOPTED** on first and final reading this sixteenth day of March 1999 by a vote of: \_\_\_\_\_:YES \_\_\_\_\_:NO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Harry R. Hamilton  
Vice Chairman  
Oconee County Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Opal O. Green  
Council Clerk

March 15, 1999  
STATEMENT

In the past year, this Council has been concerned about the issues involved in animal control. As a result of these concerns, we have recently amended our animal control ordinance in an effort to provide better protection to the citizens of Oconee County. In the drafting of the ordinance, a number of problems came to my attention concerning the enforcement of the ordinance. One of the biggest problems, as I see it, is that we have a number of different agencies who are charged with enforcement of the ordinance, and this will consequently require a great deal of communication and cooperation between agencies such as the Animal Shelter, the Sheriff's Department, and the city police departments in order to effectively enforce the ordinance. I understand that the cities of Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster would like to get out of the animal control business. I also understand that the Sheriff would not be adverse to a separate county department taking over the animal control duties that will soon be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department.

In light of this, I would propose that the County study the idea of the County taking over animal control in Oconee County. This would include all of Oconee County, including animal control in the cities of Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster, as well as the unincorporated towns of Salem and West Union. This would, of course, require the consent of the governing bodies of those municipalities. However, since the residents of the cities are citizens and tax payers of Oconee County, I believe they would welcome being considered as such. I would <sup>in this matter</sup> ask that the Law Enforcement, Safety and Health committee be requested to study the feasibility of the County taking over animal control as a separate County department and make a recommendation to Council as to the advantages and disadvantages of such action. I respectfully request that the chairman refer this matter to the committee for study and action as soon as possible in light of the pending budget which is in process now.



SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

February 11, 1999

Ms. Dianna Gracely  
Project Manager  
Appalachian Council of Governments  
Post Office Drawer 6668  
Greenville, South Carolina 29606

Re: Oconee County CDBG Application #CI 98-028

Dear Dianna:

Thank you for meeting with me regarding the Community Development Block Grant application for the Newry Housing Rehabilitation project. As you are aware, we had concerns about the viability of the project due to the cost of the rehabilitation of the houses exceeding our average cap of \$20,000. Based on our site visit and our numerous discussions about the project, I believe we have come to a resolution.

I understand you are currently revising the application to re-submit it for the February funding round without including the painting of the exterior of the homes that do not have children residing in them. This will be possible if the County changes the housing code to be used for the project from the Standard Housing Code to Section 8 Housing Quality Standards (HQS). You have indicated that the County hopes to address the painting of these houses through Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant funds that they will apply for in March, 1999. Please include information about the submission of the RDA application in the revised CI application, and indicate how RDA funds will be utilized if they are awarded. Please also submit a copy of this application to our office once it has been completed. Any painting required to meet HQS and lead based paint requirements will need to be completed with the CDBG funds or the local match, although lead based paint requirements may be met outside of the \$20,000 average cap.

We also discussed our concern that the residents need to understand that this grant will primarily address code deficiencies, that the exterior of their homes may not be painted, and the work will not include many general property improvements. Please include information about your meetings with the residents regarding this issue in the revised application.

I hope this clarifies the outstanding issues with this project. We appreciate your diligence with resolving them. If we can be of any assistance with this or any other project, please call on us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa".

Lisa Kalsbeck  
Deputy Program Manager

cc: Oconee County



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Rural Development  
Strom Thurmond Federal Building  
1835 Assembly Street Room 1007  
Columbia, SC 29201

(803) 765-5690  
(803) 253-3180 FAX  
(803) 765-5697 TDD

*No add match required*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANTS**

The USDA, Rural Development, announces that it is soliciting competitive applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low income homeowners repair and rehabilitate their homes in rural areas, and to assist rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low and very low income persons. Rural Development hereby announces that it will begin receiving preapplications. The closing date for acceptance is March 23, 1999. This period will be the only time during the current fiscal year. Only eligible public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities may apply. South Carolina was allotted \$137,190 in HPG funds. No entity can receive more than 50% of the funds. Due to limited funds, smaller amounts are encouraged with maximum use of leveraged funds. Preapplications must be received by or postmarked on or before the closing date. If you are interested, please contact one of the following Rural Development offices:

**USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Frank T. Suber, MFH Loan Speclst  
201 Magnolia St., Suite 323  
Spartanburg, SC 29306-2349  
(864) 582-2258

**USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Patti Walker, MFH Loan Speclst  
PO Drawer 2477  
Aiken, SC 29802-2477  
(803) 648-2396

**USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Dwayne White, MFH Loan Speclst  
PO Drawer 2468  
Florence, SC 29503-2468  
(843) 662-1416

**USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
Connie Hipp, MFH Loan Speclst  
531 Robertson Blvd., Suite D  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 549-5644

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